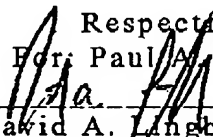


REMARKS

In response to the official office action of May 4, 2006, applicant has canceled claims 1-6 in view of the prior art. Applicant has also rewritten claim 7 as a new base claim including the limitations of the original base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant disagrees with the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of the stated prior art, because none of the prior art describes the structural limitations of claim 7 of the present invention. In particular, McCain and A. Steier et al describe chutes having nontransparent side, front, and back walls and with the chutes being substantially level along the tops thereof making it more difficult to identify and distinguish the chutes when putting the merchandise in the selected chutes; whereas, the present invention describes a front transparent panel and also the tops of the chutes are slanted downwardly from the back wall to the front wall to make it easier for the user to correctly identify and distinguish the particular chute within which the merchandise is being placed to avoid misplacement of the merchandise and to prevent the merchandise from being put over the back wall of the chute rather than in the selected chute, a problem not solved by either McCain or A. Steier et al. It is inherently understood that if the back wall is higher than the front wall, then the back wall functions as a backstop to prevent merchandise from being put over the back wall, and also allows the user to identify and distinguish the chutes.

Applicant has not added any new subject matter to the claims and respectfully request that the examiner takes the foregoing into consideration and that he be granted Letters Patent for his invention.

Respectfully Submitted,
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